

The Government and Administration of Illinois. By Neil F. Garvey. *American Commonwealths Series.* Edited by W. Brooke Graves. (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1958. Pp. xvi, 622. Frontispiece, tables, appendix, bibliography, index. \$8.00.)

This is the eleventh volume of the *American Commonwealths Series*, a monumental effort under the leadership of W. Brooke Graves, of the Library of Congress, to produce a separate major study on the government and administration of each of the American states. In approach the books are very closely parallel and largely follow a common outline.

Illinois is, of course, one of the most populous and varied of the states, and its government has many interesting features. It has many of the characteristic holdovers of the thickly settled rural Midwest of a century ago—a great number of small units of local government, a multitude of popularly elected officials ranging from state superintendent of public instruction to coroner to township supervisors and justices of the peace, and very low constitutional limits on public indebtedness. The necessity of adapting government structure to modern conditions has produced many changes in Illinois, however. For example, the state was the first in the nation, in 1917, to effectuate a sweeping reorganization and integration of its administrative agencies; its legislature is comparatively well staffed and well paid; there have been significant recent experiments in state personnel administration and in state action making non-property tax revenue sources available to local governments.

A towering fact in the political and governmental pattern of twentieth-century Illinois is the concentration of half or more of the state's total population in the Chicago metropolitan area. While Chicago and down-state Illinois have traditionally had differing political orientations, a multimember district system permitting a degree of proportional representation in the state's house of representatives has tended to confuse these differences in legislative matters. The urgency and complexity of some of the Chicago area problems have frequently diverted the attention of this half of the state's population from the government of the state.

This book, like others in the *American Commonwealths Series*, is designed as a text and reference book. It is basically descriptive and factual, and there are few attempts at deep or unusually perceptive analysis. Nearly half the book is concerned with the content of various substantive programs of the state government. For scholars in other states, it will serve as a valuable reference book on the governmental arrangements and programs, at this point in time, of one of America's greatest states; and it will probably be an indispensable text for students within Illinois.

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The State Legislative Institution. By Jefferson B. Fordham. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1959. Pp. 109. \$2.75.)

The scholarly Dr. Fordham, dean of the Pennsylvania Law School, builds a strong case for strengthening the state legislatures. It is based on the theory that present demands upon legislatures to solve the